DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY RLC DATE 10/26/82
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TS AUTH. (DADT O...)
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AN: 0790257-0193

Department of State TELEGRAM



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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ADS-00 HA-05 BIB-01 SS-15 SP-02
PM-05 NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 PA-01
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DRAFTED BY AF/C:REGRIBBIN:DMA
APPROVED BY AF/C:LDJUNIOR
VOA:ANEIL
VOA:MR. MINEHEART(SUBS)
AF/I:FCOOK
ICA/AF:RGIBBONS
HA:MHANLEY
AF:LWALKER (SUBS)
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TO AMEMBASSY BANGUI IMMEDIATE
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 145359

E.O. 12065 GDS, 6/6/85 (JUNIOR, L.D.)

TAGS: PINT, PDIP, SOPN, US, CT

SUBJECT: GOCAE PROTEST OVER VOA BROADCAST

REF: BANGUI 1394

1. ENTIRE TEXT CONFIDENTIAL.

2. AS SOON AS CONVENIENT YOU SHOULD REQUEST AN APPOINTMENT WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER OR HIS DESIGNEE TO PRESENT TEXT OF VOA ITEM AND MAKE FOLLOWING DEMARCHE.

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3. -- AS YOU CAN SEE FROM THE TEXT OF VOA ITEM THAT WAS

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BROADCAST ON JUNE 5, THE MINISTRY'S SUMMARY OF THE ITEM IS IN ERROR.

-- NO PRESS REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON SHOULD BE ATTRIBUTED TO AMBASSADOR COOKE. THE DEPARTMENT HAS NOT MADE ANY ANNOUNCEMENTS CONCERNING ITS CONSULTATIONS WITH THE AMBASSADOR WHICH ARE STILL UNDERWAY.

-- THE EVIDENCE REFERRED TO BY THE DEPARTMENT IS NOT DOCUMENTARY, BUT CONSISTS OF REPORTS, INCLUDING AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S, THOSE IN THE FRENCH PRESS, AND EMPEROR BOKASSA'S VARIOUS STATEMENTS TO THE PRESS IN KIGALI.

-- THE DEPARTMENT NOTES THAT THE CHARGES MADE BY AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL ARE INDEED SERIOUS; THEY ARE OF GREAT CONCERN TO THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT, AND ARE BEING STUDIED WITH CARE IN WASHINGTON.

-- THE USG WILL BE IN CONTACT WITH THE GOCAE IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO CONVEY THE RESULTS OF ITS CONSULTATIONS.

4. TEXT OF VOA ITEM FOLLOWS: QUOTE. U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE SAYS IT HAS EVIDENCE THAT A NUMBER OF YOUNG PEOPLE WERE KILLED IN BANGUI IN APRIL WHILE IN THE CUSTODY OF CAE AUTHORITIES. THE U.S. STATEMENT MONDAY FOLLOWED CONSULTATIONS WITH ITS AMBASSADOR TO BANGUI - GOODWIN COOKE - WHO WAS CALLED HOME IN LATE MAY FOLLOWING REPORTS THAT 100 SCHOOL CHILDREN WERE MASSACRED.- HOWEVER, THE STATE DEPARTMENT SAID IT HAS NO HARD EVIDENCE AS TO THE NUMBER OF VICTIMS, THEIR AGES, OR HOW THEY MET THEIR DEATHS. END QUOTE.

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5. TEXT OF PRESS GUIDANCE UPON WHICH ITEM IS BASED FOLLOWS:

Q: CAN YOU TELL US WHETHER THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR HAS SUBSTANTIATED REPORTS THAT 100 OR SO YOUNG PEOPLE WERE SLAUGHTERED IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN EMPIRE?

A: THE EVIDENCE AT OUR DISPOSAL INDICATES THAT A NUMBER OF YOUTHS WERE KILLED IN BANGUI DURING THE NIGHT OF APRIL 18 OR 19 WHILE IN THE CUSTODY OF CENTRAL AFRICAN

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AUTHORITIES. WE HAVE HAD NO HARD EVIDENCE WHICH WOULD CONFIRM THE AGES OF THOSE INVOLVED, THE NUMBER OF DEAD, OR THE MANNER OF THEIR DEATHS.

Q: CAN YOU PROVIDE US WITH ANY OF THE RESULTS OF THE CONSULTATIONS WITH THE AMBASSADOR?

A: WE DO NOT HAVE ANY ANNOUNCEMENTS TO MAKE CONCERNING CONSULTATIONS WHICH ARE STILL UNDERWAY. VANCE

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